CCH has decided to allow admissions of students in the first year of BHMS degree for the academic year 1997-98 only.

Non-payment of Wages in Orissa

118. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a majority of industries in Orissa are not paying minimum wages to their workers and the labour courts have failed in implementing various labour laws; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that labour laws are strictly implemented by the industrialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Lokpal Bill

119. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHLIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken steps to establish consensus on Lokpal Bill; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Unauthorised Construction

120. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1823 dated 5th March, 1997 and state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by the Government against those petrol pump owners who have encroached upon the Government land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (d) 12 petrol pump dealers had made encroachment on Govt. land out of which encroachment in respect of 2 cases has since been removed. In the remaining cases, L&DO has proposed to call a meeting of the concerned Oil Companies and advise them to remove the encroachment immediately on the Govt. land. As replied earlier in Unstarred Question No. 1823 dated 5.3.97 that out of 53 petrol pumps who resorted to unauthorised construction in the petrol pumps, re-intry orders have been issued in 17 cases and eviction proceedings under the Public Premises Eviction Act are pending in the Court of Estate Officer.

Action is under Process by DDA for cancellation of allotment, in repsect of 2 petrol pumps.

[English]

Land Grab

121. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI): Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1812 dated December 4, 1996 regarding grabbing of land and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Picking up Pearls from Sea

122. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved a method to pick up pearls from the seabed without disturbing other valued materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been launched by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Pearls are not picked from the seabed, but from Pearl oysters inhabiting the seabed. The pearl fishery is usually done by divers who pick the oysters with minimum distrubance to other animals. In India pearl fisheries occur in 2 places viz. Gulf of Mannar and Gulf of Kutch. The last pearl fishery in these areas which is controlled by Tamil Nadu and Gujarat Governments, was conducted in 1961